



**State Senator  
John J. Gleason**

P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536



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**Look for Senator Gleason  
on Facebook**

As Facebook becomes an ever-popular form of communication, Senator Gleason encourages you to find him on

Facebook. Please feel free to become his friend and look for updates on his activities in Lansing and in the district.



**Find me on  
Facebook**

**John Gleason**

NETWORK: FLINT, MI

*Feel free to cut out  
and share with a  
friend.*

**Please Tune In  
to Senator  
Gleason’s Radio  
and TV Shows**

Senator Gleason’s radio show runs every Sunday at 7 am on B-95.

“The Gleason Report,” Senator Gleason’s TV show, runs every Wednesday at 4:30 pm on Comcast channel 17.

**Budget Bills Move to Conference Committees** *Continued from previous page*

**General Government  
Budget** (SB 245)

- Restore funding for the 21st Century Jobs Fund to the Governor’s recommended \$52.95 million to diversify Michigan’s economy and help create thousands of new jobs. This program was cut by \$20.55 million.
- Oppose the 12% cut to local revenue sharing that helps fund local police, firefighters, water systems, road maintenance and other vital services.

**Department of Energy,  
Labor and Economic  
Growth Budget** (SB 243)

- Restore funding for the No Worker Left Behind Program that offers training assistance to workers training for a new job. The Governor recommended funding the program at \$15 million and Senate Republicans cut that funding to \$6.6 million.
- Increase the amount of dependent benefits offered to unemployed workers from \$6.00 per dependent to \$20.00 per dependent.

- Restore workplace safety provisions by removing the prohibition on ergonomic guidelines.
- Help citizens with the high cost of auto insurance by prohibiting the use of credit scores to determine auto insurance rates.

# John J. Gleason

*Serving the Constituents in the 27th District*



*Dear Friend:*

*As the tough times continue to plague Michigan and Genesee County in particular, I want to assure you that I am fighting to maintain funding for programs I believe will put our current workforce back to work and educate our youth for the jobs of the future. With the highest unemployment rate in the nation, I am working hard to ensure we have access to federal funds that will allow us to extend unemployment benefits to those who need it most. In addition I am also continuously advocating for restoring funding to all levels of education to ensure we are producing the most qualified workforce in the county.*

*I hope you find this newsletter to be a brief and informative insight into the way my colleagues and I are working hard to protect our dedicated workers and youth of this state. I am honored to serve the citizens of the 27th District in the Michigan Senate. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of some assistance.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John J. Gleason".

*John J. Gleason  
State Senator • 27th District*



## How to Contact Me

### Lansing Office

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## The Struggle Continues for Michigan's Unemployed Workers

**T**he Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) recently announced that Michigan's unemployment rate reached 15.2% for June, the highest it's been in 26 years. Some economists predict that it will continue to rise a little more each month until mid-2010. The entire nation is facing the worst recession since World War II, but Michigan and the greater Flint area have been hit particularly hard.

While these numbers are certainly disheartening, I have

been working to pass unemployment modernization legislation that would secure \$138.9 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to extend a much-needed lifeline for Michigan's unemployed workers.

House Bill 4785 would allow individuals enrolled in a state-approved jobs training program to receive unemployment insurance benefits for an extra 26 weeks. House Bill 4786 would allow adults working between 16

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## The Struggle Continues for Michigan's Unemployed Workers *Continued from page 1*

and 40 hours per week to become eligible for unemployment insurance benefits beginning after January 1, 2011. The Michigan House of Representatives passed their version of this legislation on May 6, and the State Senate has introduced identical bills. Unfortunately, neither version of the unemployment modernization legislation has yet to be considered by the Senate Majority.

If this reform continues to be blocked, these funds, which are made up of tax dollars paid into the system by Michigan families, could wind up going back to Washington to be handed out to other states who don't need it as

much as we do. Michigan already pays in more to the federal government than we get back in funding, and we shouldn't miss this opportunity when we finally have a chance to get our fair share.

Senate Democrats continue to fight for passage of these bills and recently launched a website calling for action on this plan. The

site, [www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/helpmiworkers](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/helpmiworkers), encourages visitors to sign a petition and contact their Senators to demand support for the legislation. We have also launched a Facebook Cause page to gather support for the unemployment modernization bills which can be found at <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/317737>.



## Investing in Early Childhood Programs is Investing in the Future

According to a recent study by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC), Michigan ranks 27th in the nation for child well-being. With the misguided cuts passed by the State Senate to early childhood programs, Michigan could very well fall to the bottom of this list. Educating our children should always be a priority no matter what the state of our economy is. As we look to the future, an investment in our children now not only produces immediate benefits, but could secure long-term economic stability as well.

Studies show that the benefits of early childhood programs outweigh the costs, with economic benefits of between \$2 and \$7 for each dollar invested. These programs were created to make sure Michigan's children enter school intellectually, emotionally, and socially ready to learn. Currently, 60% of children entering kindergarten in the state lack these skills, and teachers complain that getting them up to speed detracts from the educational experience of the children who show up prepared.

The ECIC was formed by the state in 2005 to meet the need for a greater focus on early childhood development. The collaboratives are made up of local people who assist their communities by creating a system of local programs for young children, from birth to age 5, and their families. The collaboratives in Genesee County have worked hard to ensure that our children have the services they need to start school ready to learn.

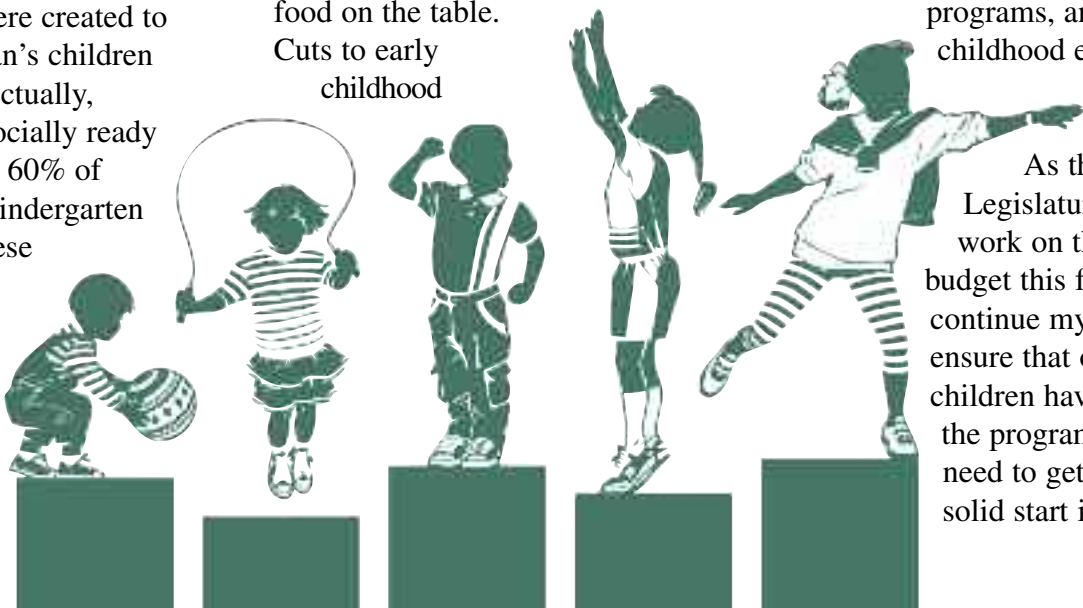
Certainly parents play an important role in preparing a child for school. But with the current high unemployment rate in Michigan, parents are struggling to make ends meet and are sometimes working multiple part-time jobs just to keep food on the table.

Cuts to early childhood

programs hurt Michigan's low-income families, who will lose subsidies to help pay for quality child care for children who are not old enough for school. We cannot afford to leave these children behind because of their family's economic situation.

Investing in a child's early years is the best possible way to prepare them for a lifetime of learning and success in science and technology-based careers. I recently joined with my Senate Democratic colleagues and fought to restore almost \$54 million in funding to early childhood programs and the ECIC in the state's Department of Human Services budget. Restoring these funds would help the state avoid severe cuts to child care, before- and after-school programs, and early childhood education programs.

As the Legislature continues work on the state budget this fall, I will continue my efforts to ensure that our young children have access to the programs they need to get a good solid start in life.





# Budget Bills Move to Conference Committees

**B**oth the Michigan House of Representatives and the Senate have passed different versions of the budget bills for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. These bills will now go to a conference committee where the differences will be worked out by legislators. The conference committee will provide a report with recommendations for each budget. At that time, both chambers will vote to either adopt or reject the conference committee reports. The budget must be decided before September 30, 2009.

The programs that I and my Senate Democratic colleagues have fought for during the budget negotiation process and will continue to work for as these bills are debated in conference committees are as follows:

## K-12 School Aid Budget (House Bill 4447)

- Restore the \$110 per pupil funding cut, funding critical to school budgets around the state.
- Restore 90% of funding for declining enrollment grants to help lessen the devastating impact on school districts.
- Restore 90% of funding for small high schools with a focus on personal attention and engaging, real world applicable curriculum.
- Restore 90% of funding for early childhood programs.
- Restore 90% of funding for health/science middle colleges.
- Uphold essential funding for special education and vocational education.

## Department of Human Services Budget (SB 248)

- Restore \$13.5 million to train laid off workers for the new economy and fund clothing, transportation, and other

support for people looking for jobs.

- Protect Local Office Emergency Funds that help keep children in their homes and assist families in paying their bills.
- Restore almost \$54 million to avoid severe cuts to child care, before- and after-school programs, and early childhood education programs.
- Fight for \$29 million to provide \$14 per month to assist disabled individuals living independently for the costs associated with paying rent, buying food and purchasing medical supplies.
- Restore \$3.9 million to continue the Clothing Allowance at \$75 per child per year to allow families to provide for their children.
- Preserve funding to avoid laying off 100 Department of Human Services workers and to uphold FIP grant funding that offers modest support for Michigan's most vulnerable families.

## Community College (HB 4435), Department of Education (HB 4438), and Higher Education (HB 4441) Budgets

- Protect funding for the Michigan Promise Grants program that offers \$4,000 scholarships to qualified high school and college students to pursue a college education.
- Restore \$89.8 million for the Michigan College Access Grants and other state-funded scholarship programs that Michigan families depend on.



- Preserve \$1.9 million in nursing grant money to help train students for nursing jobs.
- Restore renaissance zone reimbursement funding that returns local dollars that are mandated for community colleges as part of the Community College budget.

## Department of Community Health Budget (HB 4436)

- Restore funding to current year Healthy Michigan Fund prior to Executive Order cuts.
- Restore proposed 8% Medicaid provider rate reduction.
- Provide \$5 million General Fund to pay 17% of COBRA costs, which helps out-of-work residents cover healthcare costs.
- Allow the Department of Community Health to recover funds from incidences where consumers have been injured or killed by faulty prescription drugs if Michigan's outdated drug industry immunity law is repealed.
- Restore funding for the Michigan Essential Health Provider Program.
- Restore protections assuring Medicaid clients can continue to receive certain mental health medications.

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